

## **Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSI)**

### **Wash Basin Commercial Thinning & Density Management Upper Umpqua Watershed Plan**

Swiftwater Field Office, Roseburg District  
EA# OR-104-02-09

Wash Basin is a commercial thinning and forest density management project identified in the Upper Umpqua Watershed Plan (EA # OR -104-02-09), the Decision Record for the Upper Umpqua Watershed Plan (October 8, 2003), and in the Decision Record for the Wash Basin Commercial Thinning & Density Management project (February 24, 2006). Wash Basin Commercial Thinning & Density Management encompasses approximately 170 acres located in Section 09, T24S, R07W, W.M. and in Section 31, T23S, R07W, W.M.

#### **Test for Significant Impacts.**

1. Has significant impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (1))?

☐ Yes ☒ No

**Remarks:** Any impacts will be consistent with the range and scope of those effects analyzed and described in the Roseburg District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/EIS).

2. Has significant adverse impacts on public health or safety (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (2))?

☐ Yes ☒ No

**Remarks:** Treatment of logging slash by machine piling and burning is the only activity with the potential to affect air quality locally. Pile burning will be accomplished under guidelines established by the Oregon Smoke Management Plan and Visibility Protection Plan to avoid adverse effects. Any impacts to local air quality will be localized and of short duration, consistent with the range and scope of those effects analyzed and described in the Roseburg District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/EIS, pp. 4-9 to 4-12).

3. Adversely effects such unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources, park, recreation or refuge lands, wilderness areas, wild or scenic rivers, sole or principal drinking water aquifers, prime farmlands, wetlands, floodplains or ecologically significant or critical areas including those listed on the Department's National Register of Natural Landmarks (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (3))?

☐ Yes ☒ No

**Remarks:** Unique geographic characteristics (such as those listed above)

are absent from the project area and will not be affected.

4. Has highly controversial effects on the quality of the human environment (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (4))?

☐ Yes ☒ No

**Remarks:** Public comments provided information that helped in the formulation of the Upper Umpqua Watershed Plan decision (October 8, 2003) and is reflected in both that decision (pgs. 3-9) and in the Project Design Features (PDFs) for this project. However, no comments were received that I consider highly controversial.

5. Has highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks to the human environment (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (5))?

☐ Yes ☒ No

**Remarks:** The risks to the human environment were analyzed and found not to be highly uncertain or unique (Wash Basin Decision Record, Table 4, pgs. 15-21).

6. Establishes a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (6))?

☐ Yes ☒ No

**Remarks:** The advertisement, auction, and award of a timber sale contract allowing the harvest of trees is a well-established practice and does not establish a precedent for future actions.

7. Is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (7))?

☐ Yes ☒ No

**Remarks:** The cumulative impacts were analyzed and found not to be significant (Wash Basin Decision Record, Table. 4, pgs. 15-21).

8. Has adverse effects on districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (8))?

☐ Yes ☒ No

**Remarks:** The BLM conducted surveys for cultural resources and completed Section 106 responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act, in accordance with the 1998 Oregon State Historic Preservation Office protocols. No cultural or historical resources are known to be present (Wash Basin Decision Record, Table. 4, pg. 15). There will be no impacts to scientific, cultural, or historical resources.

No Native American religious concerns or values were identified in association with the project area, so there will be no effect on potential Native American Religious Concerns.

9. May adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (9))?

Botanical Species	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Fish Species	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Wildlife Species	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No

**Remarks:** Surveys did not identify the presence of any federally threatened or endangered plants; therefore this action has no effect on listed botanical species (Wash Basin Decision Record, Table. 4, pg. 15).

The Oregon Coast coho in Roseburg District does not warrant listing under the ESA at this (Fed. Reg., Vol. 71 No. 12, Jan. 19, 2006). Conservation measures incorporated into the PDFs will prevent adverse effects to Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). The project will not adversely affect EFH; therefore consultation with National Marine Fisheries Service is not required (Wash Basin Decision Record, Table. 4, pg. 16).

In accordance with the Endangered Species Act, consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has been completed for the federally threatened bald eagle, northern spotted owl, and marbled murrelet and for northern spotted owl critical habitat and marbled murrelet critical habitat. The Biological Opinion (BO) for the *Reinitiation of consultation on Roseburg District Bureau of Land Management FY 2005-2008 Management Activities* (Ref. # 1-15-05-I-0511) was completed June 24, 2005 and for *Reinitiation of consultation on Roseburg District Bureau of Land Management FY 2005-2008 Management Activities. Disturbance to marbled murrelets*. (Ref. # 1-15-05-I-0596) was completed July 20, 2005. The BOs rendered by the USFWS concluded that this action is not likely to adversely affect the bald eagle, spotted owl, spotted owl critical habitat, murrelet, and murrelet critical habitat (pg. 30 [Ref. # 1-15-05-I-0511] and pg. 7 [Ref. # 1-15-05-I-0596]). PDFs will be implemented in compliance with the BOs (Wash Basin Decision Record, Table. 4, pgs. 17-19).

10. Threatens to violate Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (10))?

☐ Yes ☒ No

**Remarks:** The measures described above insure that Wash Basin Commercial Thinning & Density Management is consistent with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws. The impacts of the silvicultural treatment on the human environment will not exceed those anticipated by

the Roseburg District PRMP/EIS.

Pursuant to Executive Order 13212, the BLM must consider the effects of this decision on the President's National Energy Policy. Within the project area, there are no known energy resources with commercial potential. There are no pipelines, electrical transmission lines, or energy producing or processing facilities. As a consequence, there will be no known adverse effect on National Energy Policy.

Based on the analysis of potential impacts contained in the environmental assessment, I have determined that Wash Basin Commercial Thinning & Density Management will not have significant impact on the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2) (c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and that an environmental impact statement is not required. I have determined that the effects of the silvicultural treatment are within those anticipated and already analyzed in the *Roseburg District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement* (PRMP/EIS, 1994) and is in conformance with the *Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* (ROD/RMP) for the Roseburg District, approved by the Oregon/Washington State Director on June 2, 1995.

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Marci L. Todd, Field Manager  
Swiftwater Field Office

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Date